

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, GE, US

SUBJECT: VINOCUR'S REVENGE

REF: BERLIN 4926

1. DESPITE EFFORTS OF GDR'S HAUS FUER JOURNALISTISCHE
DIENSTLEISTUNGEN (HJD) TO SABOTAGE EFFORTS OF JOHN VINOCUR
AND HIS N.Y. TIMES COLLEAGUES DURING RECENT TRIP THROUGH
GDR (REFTEL), VINOCUR HAS PRODUCED PERCEPTIVE ARTICLE
ENTITLED "RESTIVE YOUTH IS WORRYING EAST GERMANY/ WHICH
APPEARED ON FRONT-PAGE OF AUGUST 1 TIMES. DATELINED
WARNEMUNDE, PACKED WITH DIRECT QUOTATIONS (SOME
ATTRIBUTABLE) AND APPEARING UNDER A PHOTO OF SLOVENLY
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YOUNGSTERS, THE ARTICLE PAINTS A BLEAK PICTURE OF DIS-
AFFECTION AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR AMONG GDR YOUTH.

2. PREVIOUS DAY'S TIMES CARRIED A LENGTHY BERLIN-
DATELINED STORY BY ELLEN LENTZ ON RECENT ESCAPES ACROSS
WALL, WHILE AUGUST 2 EDITION FEATURED LENTZ PIECE ON GDR
MILITARY IN AFRICA.

3. DEPARTMENT, WHICH HAS ALSO RECEIVED VOCIFEROUS COMPLAINTS ABOUT HJD FROM CHICAGO TRIBUNE'S HOWARD TYNER, WILL KEEP AN EYE OUT NOT ONLY FOR FUTURE INDICATIONS OF "PROMISED RETALIATION" (REFTEL) BUT ALSO FOR SIGNS OF

CHANGED GDR BEHAVIOR IN THIS AREA. IN MEANTIME, IT WOULD BE WELL FOR EMBASSY TO MAKE CLEAR TO GDR CONTACTS, AS WE WILL HERE, THAT HJD'S ANTICS (OUTRAGEOUS FEES FOR "SERVICES", NON-COOPERATION IN ARRANGING INTERVIEWS, ETC.) CAN ONLY COMPOUND GDR'S IMAGE PROBLEM IN WEST.

4. VINOCUR AND LENTZ ARTICLES BEING POUCHED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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